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# CZECHOSLOVAK DECREE ON IMPROVEMENT OF CATTLE AND HOG BREEDS

The Czechoslovak Ministry of Agriculture, as of 26 March 1952, has decreed the following regarding the improvement of animal production:

## Article 1

The purpose of supervising the improvement of livestock breeds is to develop cattle and hogs well adapted to given living conditions, to disclose deficiencies in their care, to provide the basis for directives to provide proper living conditions, make the animals more profitable, increase productivity of labor, decrease costs of production, and control the effects of these provisions, when executed.

## Article 2

1. The decree pertains to cows and heifers of all JZD (United Agricultural Cooperatives) operating common cattle barns, of state farms, and of the remainder of the socialist sector. It applies to those cows and heifers which were included in groups A, B, or C during the autumn classification, for which the regional zootechnician (the farm zootechnician in case of state farms) opened a file and issued to the breeder a breeding control sheet. The Ministry of Agriculture prescribes the form for both the file and the control sheet. On the issuance of the control sheet to the breeder, the breeding cow is placed under the supervised breed-improvement program.

2. The breeders will carry out the improvement program according to instructions of the regional or farm zootechnician concerned. He will make systematic entries on the breeding control sheet. He will return the control sheet to the regional or farm zootechnician after the expiration of the period mentioned therein. The returned control sheet is added to the breeding file.

- 1 -

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3. When transferring a cow from one breeder to another, the transferring party surrenders to the acquiring party its breeding control sheet or a summary of the file of its dam in case of a young heifer; this transfer is then reported to the regional or farm zootechnician.

#### Article 3

1. Each month, on a day set by the okres national committee (the control day), the breeders check and register the milk production of the cows being checked, so that milk production will be checked on or before the third day of each month. The period between one control day and the next is called the monthly period. The quantity of milk obtained is either measured or weighed to within plus or minus one fourth liter or one quarter kilogram; the butter-fat content is not checked. The animal breeders also check and register the weight of the cow, the weight of the calves, and any other pertinent information on the control sheet.

2. Not later than 3 days after the expiration of the monthly period, the breeders shall calculate the quantity of milk obtained from each cow during the latest period. In cases where breeders measure the milk obtained every day, they will add up the quantity of milk for the period; otherwise they will multiply the quantity of milk as ascertained on the last control day by the number of milking days in the period. They shall also calculate the total quantity of milk obtained from all the cows that are being checked during the period.

3. Breeders shall report monthly, in writing, to the regional or farm zootechnician during his visit. The report shall contain the following information for the past monthly period: the total quantity of milk obtained, the total number of milking days, and the total number of stable days (presumably the number of days the cow is kept in the barn, i.e., not out on pasture).

#### Article 4

1. The regional or farm zootechnician registers in the breeding file the entries shown on the control sheet and makes sure that these entries are correct; he adds the cow's breeding control sheet to the cow's file as it is returned to him by the breeder after the cow has calved.

2. The information indicated in Article 3, Paragraph 3, is reported by the regional or farm zootechnician to the okres zootechnician on or before the end of the month. This report covers the past monthly period.

#### Article 5

According to the information reported, the okres zootechnician evaluates the cattle production situation for individual breeders, and by the sixth day of the following month, he submits a resume covering individual sectors and the okres as a whole to the kraj national committee, which, in turn, sends a similar report on the kraj to the Ministry of Agriculture on or before the tenth day of the same month. The okres and kraj national committees, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, shall use the reported information as a basis for promulgating measures to improve cattle raising.

#### Article 6

1. At the end of each year, the regional or farm zootechnician evaluates and prepares annual reports based on the monthly reports of individual breeders and submits them to the okres zootechnician in the okres national committee by the end of January. The okres national committee evaluates the cattle production

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situation according to these reports and presents a complete statement to the kraj national committee on or before 10 February. The kraj national committee then evaluates the cattle-production situation in the individual okres and submits a statement to the Ministry of Agriculture for the entire kraj on or before 20 February.

2. The annual report is to include the following information: the daily average milk production per cow during the year, the average milk production per cow during a year, the average lactation period of cows being checked, the economic index of livestock-raising intensity, and the numerical distribution of cows into groups according to their profitability.

3. The economic index shall represent the relation between milking days and stable days. It is computed in the following manner: the number of milking days of cows being checked for the past year is divided by the number of stable days, and the quotient is multiplied by 100.

4. Only cows which have been checked over the entire year are grouped according to their yearly profitability. The annual milk yield for individual groups is set as follows: Group I, up to 1,500 liters; Group II, from 1,500 to 1,850 liters; Group III, from 1,850 to 2,500 liters; Group IV, from 2,500 to 3,000 liters; Group V, from 3,000 to 4,000 liters; Group VI, from 4,000 to 6,000 liters; and Group VII, above 6,000 liters.

#### Article 7

1. Control of the improvement of hog breeding will apply to all sows older than 6 months in both the socialist and private sectors of agriculture. The local national committee and, in the case of state farms, the person in charge of animal production in each agricultural unit, shall open a file for these sows if this has not been done already and shall issue a control sheet to the breeders; in the case of state farms the control sheet shall be issued to the persons in charge of the sow-breeding squads (hereinafter referred to as breeders). The Ministry of Agriculture sets the style for both the file and the control sheet. On issuance of the control sheet to breeders, the sow is included in the program of controlled improvement of livestock breeding.

2. Breeders control the improvement of hog breeding according to instructions of and with the assistance of both the local national committee and the local zootechnician, and in the case of state farms, according to the instructions of the person in charge of animal production. They register on the control sheet the results of the control procedure. After having registered two litters, they return the control sheet to the local national committee or, in the case of state farms, to the person in charge of animal production. The returned control sheet is added to the file on the sow.

3. When transferring a sow, the breeder shall request from the local national committee (in the case of state farms, from the person in charge of animal production) a summary of the sow's file, and in the case of a gilt, a summary of its dam's file, which he surrenders to the acquiring party. The acquiring party is responsible for surrendering this summary to its local national committee, and in the case of state farms to the person in charge of animal production.

#### Article 8

1. The breeders shall ascertain all facts important to livestock raising and register them on the face of the control sheet in accordance with the instructions printed.

2. On the first day of the month, the breeders submit monthly reports to their local national committee (in the case of state farms, to the person in charge of animal production), stating how they are carrying out the controls and the changes in the condition of the sows being checked. The report is made by submitting the complete control sheet.

3. The local national committee (in the case of state farms, the person in charge of animal production) registers in the sow's file the entries which appear on the control sheet, making sure that the entries on the control sheet are correct.

#### Article 9

1. Entries registered on the files are used by the local national committee for preparing a monthly statistical report covering the fulfillment of the animal production plan. In the prescribed time limit, they are forwarded to the okres national committee and to the purchasing enterprise. These entries are also used as a basis for promulgating operational measures on hog raising in the obcra.

2. State farms and the JZD use the entries on the control sheets for similar purposes.

3. The kraj and okres national committees and the Ministry of Agriculture use the breeders' entries in the statistical reports on animal production and for promulgating operational measures on hog raising.

#### Article 10

1. The okres national committees, on the basis of results obtained from controlling the improvement of cattle and hog raising, determine all the measures necessary to improve the environment in which the animals are to be raised and to regulate their breeding. According to the results of the control program, they may direct, on instructions from the Ministry of Agriculture, that less profitable animals be gradually eliminated.

2. The breeders are to follow the instructions and advice of the local zootechnician, as well as of the national committees, regarding raising, weaning, feeding, and housing of cattle and hogs.

This decree goes in effect 1 April 1952.

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